

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 NOVEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

Supporters and opponents of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat exchanged heavy artillery and rocket fire around Tripoli and Al-Baddawi camp early on 15 November, Beirut radio reported. 'Arafat loyalist sources cited by Radio Monte Carlo said 60 Syrian tanks were attacking under cover of heavy artillery directed at Al-Baddawi and 'Arafat's command headquarters in Tripoli. While 'Arafat's sources held the Syrians responsible for starting the latest round of fighting, Voice of Palestinian Revolution, the dissident radio broadcasting from the Turbul area, accused 'Arafat's forces of opening intense fire on the "forces of the revolution and uprising" in order to escalate the situation.

The renewed fighting followed an announcement by 'Arafat's spokesman in Tripoli declaring the PLO leader's readiness to send a peace delegation to Damascus for talks with the Syrian leaders, according to Radio Monte Carlo. The spokesman also revealed that Saudi King Fahd had promised 'Arafat that he would try to consolidate the cease-fire and form an Arab mediation committee to settle the PLO leader's differences with both the Syrians and the Palestinian dissidents. Earlier, at a press conference reported by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio, 'Arafat said he will leave Tripoli "when the situation returns to normal." The PLO leader also told KUNA that PLO Political Department chief Fariq Qaddumi will lead a PLO delegation to Moscow "next week." Meanwhile, Qaddumi and Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf discussed the Lebanon situation with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in Tunis, according to Tunis radio.

Jordan

Jordan arrested three members of the Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal, also known as Sabri al-Banna, who were carrying "important documents," including instructions to blow up Jordanian intelligence headquarters and U.S., French, and British airline offices and assassinate various foreign ambassadors, the Voice of Lebanon announced. The radio added that Jordanian authorities have launched a "major" helicopter-borne search campaign along the border with Syria.

Lebanon

Political Developments — Shi'ite religious leader Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, in an interview with the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ*, categorically rejected accusations that he was responsible for the bomb attacks on the U.S. and French contingent headquarters in Beirut, adding that he does "not believe that such methods lead to decisive and positive results." Meanwhile, the Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the deputy commander of the Iranian Revolution Guards Corps, accompanied by a number of officers, arrived in Ba'labakk for meetings with Iranian officials in the area.

Military Developments — Citing "highly placed military sources," the Voice of Lebanon reported that the missiles fired at U.S. aircraft on 10 November were SAM-8's launched from batteries manned by Syrian soldiers trained by Soviet experts. The radio added that following the incident the Syrian command moved the batteries because they were discovered by U.S. planes. Meanwhile, U.S. aircraft continued their overflights on 14 November following shellfire near U.S. ships off Antilyas, the radio added. According to the report, a rocket launcher in Bhamdun opened fire at the shore area of Antilyas, where U.S. ships were anchored.

Lebanese Army positions around Suq al-Gharb continue to receive heavy shelling, Beirut radio said. The Voice of Arab Lebanon reported the Phalangist militia command headquarters in Ar-Rumaylah was destroyed by a "big explosion," but the cause of the explosion was not reported.

East Beirut was subjected to sporadic shelling throughout 14 November, which intensified early on 15 November but stopped when a cease-fire agreement was reached, Beirut radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

An official information spokesman cited by SPA denied *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL* report that the Saudis had paid \$4 billion to secure the 25 September cease-fire between the Lebanese Government and the Syrian-backed opposition.

Israel

There is no immediate threat of war with Syria, but Israel must be "very alert," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir stated in an interview with the FRG paper *DIE WELT* reported by Jerusalem radio. He also expressed concern over the prospect of West German military cooperation with Saudi Arabia.

Iraq

Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, arrived in Baghdad for talks on cooperation in the oil industry field, according to INA.

Iran

In a speech to a group of Friday imams and province governors general and governors reported by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri spoke of a "trend or policy" in education departments, the Guards Corps, the bazaar, and other organizations of expelling or isolating "some people" after testing them on "futile and unnecessary questions." Montazeri maintained that "this trend" should be "decisively stopped" because it creates discontent and is contrary to the interests of the Islamic Republic.

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Ershad Addresses Nation on Election Dates

*BK/41715 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1330 GMT
14 Nov 83*

[Chief Martial Law Administrator General Ershad's address to nation over radio and television — live or recorded]

[Summary] Dear country: I will make some important announcements for the happiness and prosperity of the people. "On the eve of taking over the responsibility of running the administration of the country on 24 March 1982, we made some pledges before the people, which included the reconstruction of the economy and establishment of the people's democracy. We said that this military rule is the military rule of establishing true democracy. We therefore took several quick reformatory steps in that direction. Among the steps, special mention should be made of the austerity drive in the administration, encouragement to the private sector for the setting up of industry, liberal industrial policy, land reform, introduction of legislation to stop torture of women, amendment of criminal and [word indistinct] acts, bringing the judicial system within the reach of the people, handing over responsibility to the representatives of the elected group at the subdivisional level, and reflection of Islamic ideology in the state and national life."

We have realized that for the progress and prosperity of Bangladesh the economy of the rural Bengal must be revitalized. Therefore, we have tried to bring administrative reforms and taken steps to hand over the power to the people in the subdivisional districts.

When we took charge of running the affairs of the country with so many problems in front of us, we never thought that we would be able to announce the election timetable within 16 months. "Now elections will be held on the basis of adult franchise in each stage starting from union council." I have faith that you will elect only honest and devoted people in the forthcoming elections.

"In this regard, I want to say something on the demands of some of the political parties. Some sections have started a debate on the question of the presidential and parliamentary systems. We believe that there is no scope for any debate on this issue. In 1972, the then ruling political government itself amended the parliamentary system Constitution to the presidential system. This followed several [word indistinct] incidents in the country. Finally, an amended multiparty presidential system Constitution was introduced. These amendments were brought forward by the politicians themselves. Reviewing recent history, it can be found that with the (introduction) of military rule, there were two presidential elections and one parliamentary election under the amended presidential system Constitution. All the political parties which framed this Constitution took part in these elections.

"Dear countrymen, in this background, I want to say one thing clearly: that declaring the Constitution made by the politicians as ('valid'), we took over the administration on 24 March 1982. Thus, in the last stage of the transformation to democracy it is legal to introduce the same Constitution for the election of president and [words indistinct]. The Constitution contains all the rules and regulations. Having faith in democracy, it would not be proper for us to bring about any basic changes in the Consti-

tution by issuing military orders. On the other hand, nothing should be done during the transition to democracy which can create any kind of constitutional vacuum. Such a vacuum can create further complex problems and a confused situation.

"According to the democratic rules, the elected representatives of the people have the right to make necessary decisions on the Constitution in Parliament. However, I want to announce with emphasis that I believe in exchanging views on political issues with everyone irrespective of their views or opinions.

"At the last stage of transition to democracy, the creation of a peaceful and clean election atmosphere is absolutely necessary. With the belief that all political parties will show their wisdom and responsibility, permission has been given from this moment onward for outdoor political activities."

It is to be remembered that for the greater interest of the nation, law and order should be maintained. When disorder and killings are taking place in many countries of the world, peace prevails in Bangladesh with the cooperation of its people. We should try to settle all our misunderstandings through negotiations and discussions. We should discard provocative speeches and maintain a calm atmosphere.

The military rule should not continue for a long time. Having faith in democracy, we in Bangladesh have decided to set an example by ending the military rule.

"On the basis of this decision and hoping that law and order will prevail throughout the country, I announce after my talks with the Election Commission that the elections for president will be held on 24 May 1984 and for Parliament on 25 November 1984."

Concluding, I appeal to the countrymen for their cooperation in successfully completing the task of the transition to democracy. "I believe that at this moment of transition of the nation, besides the political parties, the press will also continue to play its responsible role and provide help for the creation of a democratic climate."

I wish for Bangladesh to march forward toward happiness, prosperity, and democracy.

AFP Report

BK/41203 Hong Kong AFP in English 1157 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 14 (AFP) — Bangladesh military leader Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammed Ershad today announced dates for presidential and parliamentary elections and an end to restrictions on political activities. Under the programme announced in a television and radio broadcast, Gen. Ershad said presidential elections would be held on May 24 and parliamentary elections on November 25, 1984.

Gen. Ershad has already announced voting on chief executives for subdistricts, the cornerstone of his decentralisation policy, for March 24, the second anniversary of the bloodless coup that brought him to power.

The opposition has called for parliamentary elections before the presidential poll, and has announced a protest demonstration over the issue for Wednesday. The opposition has already staged a half-day strike on November 1 to promote their demands.

The Wednesday protest will coincide with government sponsored demonstrations in the countryside, followed by similar action in the capital the next day.

The end to all restrictions on political activities became effective today, notably allowing outdoor political meetings and protest actions to be held.

A total ban on political activities enacted after the imposition of martial law was partially lifted in February following student riots.

Political activities were allowed, but all meetings had to be held undercover, effectively limiting their scale, observers said.

Bhutan's Foreign Minister Departs 11 Nov

BK111210 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1100 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] The Bhutanese foreign minister left Dhaka for home this afternoon. Talking to newsmen at Dhaka Airport prior to his departure, he said that Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuk will pay a state visit to Bangladesh next February. He said the

king will visit Bangladesh at the invitation of President Ahsanuddin Chowdhury and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad. The Bhutanese minister described his visit to Bangladesh as very successful, saying he had very useful discussions with Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha and other leaders. Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha saw him off at the airport.

Queen Elizabeth Arrives in Dhaka 14 Nov

BK141636 Hong Kong AFP in English 1553 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Nov 14 (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip arrived here today from Kenya for a 60-hour visit to Bangladesh.

The British royal couple were welcomed at the airport by President Ahsanuddin Chowdhury and military leader Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

There were no formalities at the airport and the royal party left immediately for the old Gonobhaban state guest house where they will stay until flying on to India for a state visit before the Commonwealth summit in New Delhi.

It is the Queen's second visit to Dhaka but her first to the city as capital of Bangladesh. At the time of her previous visit in 1961 this country was the eastern wing of Pakistan.

Gandhi Urges Al-Asad To Help Restore PLO Amity*BK141607 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 14 Nov 83*

[Text] The prime minister has urged the Syrian President, Mr al-Asad, to use his influence to restore amity in the Palestine Liberation Organization. In a letter to Mr al-Asad, Mrs Gandhi expressed her grave anxiety on the reports from north Lebanon and stressed the need for the PLO to unite its ranks. She told President al-Asad that he could use his position of confidence and influence with the Arab world for restoring amity in the PLO.

Commonwealth Official Criticizes U.S., USSR*BK110810 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
11 Nov 83*

[Text] The need for a Commonwealth initiative to reduce conflicts in various parts of the world has been stressed by its secretary general, Mr Ramphal. In his reports to the New Delhi summit, opening on the 23d of this month, [as heard] he said the Commonwealth can help avoid armed conflicts in the Third World by working out a system of collective security. He has held the superpowers responsible for the current world tensions.

Mr Ramphal has strongly criticized the United States for pursuing a domestic policy which has little regard for world economic recovery. The United States has reduced aid even to the poorest nations and is threatening still more cuts. He said the American retreat from multilateralism on the economic front is coupled with (?) its sociopolitical assertiveness, with its most disturbing manifestations in Central America.

The Commonwealth secretary general also blamed the Soviet Union for what he called the unwanted presence of its forces in Afghanistan.

On global economic issues, Mr Ramphal said that the Commonwealth must make the North-South dialogue work and give a constructive lead to the world community in reforming the international financial system. He called for adequate resources for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund so as to insulate their operations against political intervention.

Dealing with Namibia, he charged South Africa of continued defiance of world opinion and blocking that country's progress and independence. He also criticized South Africa for steadily raising its military strength to bully and harass its neighbors.

Reportage on Soviet Industry Minister's Visit*BK120949 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
12 Nov 83*

[Text] The Soviet Union is to help in the expansion of Bhilai, Bokaro, and Visakhapatnam steel plants. The visiting Soviet heavy industry minister, Mr N. V. Goldin, said in Calcutta that the Joint Indo-Soviet Economic Commission will meet shortly to discuss further cooperation in heavy industry, oil exploration, coal mining, and agriculture.

Later, speaking at a function organized by the Soviet Friendship Society in the city, he appreciated the constructive role being played by India as leader of the Nonaligned Movement. He said India has contributed effectively for preserving global peace and for the economic growth of developing countries.

Goldin Comments to Newsmen*BK140946 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
14 Nov 83*

[Text] The Soviet minister for heavy construction industry, Mr Goldin, has said India is in a position to help other countries in view of her progress in the field of heavy industry. Talking to newsmen in Bombay, he said the Soviet Union has placed orders for Indian engineering products. He said the Soviet people appreciate India's concern over the arms buildup in a neighboring country.

GDR Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in Delhi*BK101257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
10 Nov 83*

[Text] The deputy prime minister of the German Democratic Republic, Dr Gerhard Weiss, arrived in New Delhi this evening on a week-long visit. He was received at the airport by the union industry minister, Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari.

Speaking to AIR's correspondent on his arrival, Dr Weiss said trade relations between the two countries have increased considerably and he would have talks with Indian leaders to explore new areas for further cooperation.

India-GDR Joint Commission Session Held 11 November*BK111428 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
11 Nov 83*

[Text] India and the German Democratic Republic have decided to increase mutual cooperation to carry out joint ventures in the third countries. This was decided at the plenary session of the Indo-GDR joint commission in New Delhi today. Trade turnover between the two countries is likely to be double next year from the present level. It is expected to reach the 3.3 billion rupee mark.

Gandhi Envoy Views Outcome of Talks in Sri Lanka*BK110653 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
11 Nov 83*

[Text] The prime minister's special envoy, Mr G. Parthasarathy, has said he is planning to meet the leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) in New Delhi within a week. The TULF secretary general, Mr Amirthalingam, now in London, is expected to be back in Delhi in time for the meeting. Mr Parthasarathy will discuss with them the proposals that have been worked out in Colombo.

He told newsmen in Madras that his visit to Sri Lanka was part of the continuing efforts to reach a political settlement acceptable to all communities on the problems of the Tamil minority. Mr Parthasarathy said positive ideas have emerged in the course of his discussions in Sri Lanka. Tentative proposals have also been worked out to provide for greater devolution of powers to the regions within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. Mr Parthasarathy said that after ascertaining the TULF leaders' response to the proposals, he would convey it to President Jayewardene during his forthcoming visit to the Commonwealth meet in Delhi.

Mr Parthasarathy met the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, at Madras last night. The chief minister has expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the special envoy's visit to Sri Lanka.

Further Report

*BK111625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
11 Nov 83*

[Text] The leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] of Sri Lanka, Mr Amirthalingam and his party colleagues, are expected in New Delhi on or about Wednesday next to discuss the problems of the Tamil-speaking minority of the country with the prime minister's special emissary, Mr G. Parthasarathy. The Sri Lanka minister, Mr S. Thondaman, is also likely to join the talks. Later, Mr Parthasarathy will meet President Jayewardene who will be in the capital to attend the Commonwealth summit.

It may be recalled that Mr Parthasarathy worked out certain proposals during his visit to Colombo after discussions with President Jayewardene and others. He could not meet the TULF leaders and the proposals will now be discussed with them.

The new proposals indicate a significant advance toward reaching a solution. Earlier, the Sri Lanka Government only agreed to give more powers to District Development Councils [DDC]. Now it is willing to form the regional councils by amalgamating DDCs within each province. These councils will be formed on the basis of the desire of the DDCs to merge and they will have the appropriate powers. Reports from Colombo indicate that Sri Lanka is keen to promote national harmony and reach a political settlement. There is also a growing realization that India's good offices are proving useful for this purpose.

CPI Suggests Tripartite Conference on Punjab

*BK150655 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
15 Nov 83*

[Text] The CPI general secretary, Mr Rajeshwar Rao, has suggested a tripartite conference comprising representatives of the Akali Dal, government, and the opposition to find an amicable solution to the Punjab problem. Addressing a news conference in Patna, he said if such a meeting is held the demands of the Akalis can be sorted out.

The Punjab unit of the CPI-M has denounced the resolution of the Akali Dal, Talwandi group, on forming a parallel government in Punjab. Describing the move as antinational, the state secretariat of the party said this will come in the way of a negotiated settlement of the Punjab issue.

'Large Quantities' of Arms Seized in Assam

*BK150659 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
15 Nov 83*

[Text] In Assam, police have seized large quantities of illegal arms and ammunition from different hideouts since January this year. Talking to newsmen in Gauhati, the chief minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, said tribunals set up for the detection of post-1971 illegal foreigners have started functioning. They have been constituted in Gauhati, Nowgong, Dezpur, and Dhungri subdivisions.

The chief minister said he will welcome any move for further talks to find a lasting solution to the foreign nationals problem. It is for the agitationists to take the initiative for any purposeful dialogue, he added.

Atomic Energy Head Cites Production Goal

*BK120955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
12 Nov 83*

[Text] The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr Raja Ramanna, has said India has the potential to achieve the goal of producing 10,000 megawatts of nuclear power by the turn of the century. He said in Bombay that a long-term commitment by the government for such a nuclear program will encourage the industry to mobilize resources for the timely delivery of equipment.

Delhi Cites Incidents of Violence in Sind

BK150608 *Delhi Domestic Service in English* 0240 GMT
15 Nov 83

[Text] According to a news agency report, seven bomb blasts occurred at different places in the Sind Province of Pakistan in a fresh wave of protests against the martial law regime. The headquarters of the Indus Rangers, a paramilitary force of Sind at Hyderabad, was one of the targets. There were some casualties. Bomb blasts also took place at (Kanagi) Lake, from where Karachi gets its water supply.

According to the leader of the Pakistan People's Party, Mr Jam Sadeq Ali, the incidents were a reaction to what he called brutal force being used by the martial law authorities to crush the agitation in Sind.

A special meeting of the Pakistan Cabinet has decided to tone up the administration in the province. It has decided to appoint a committee for this purpose.

Leaders Meet With PRC Naval Commander**Defense Minister**

BK131540 *Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu* 1500 GMT
13 Nov 83

[Text] The Chinese naval commander, Mr Liu Huaqing, met with Defense Minister Mir Ali Ahmed Khan Talpur in Rawalpindi today and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest.

President Zia

BK150705 *Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu* 0200 GMT
15 Nov 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz, military, on the visiting Chinese Liberation Army Naval Commander Liu Huaqing at an impressive investiture ceremony in Rawalpindi last evening. The award was conferred in recognition of his distinctive professional achievements and his role in strengthening the close and cordial relations between China and Pakistan.

Mr Liu Huaqing later called on the president and discussed bilateral matters. The call was followed by a dinner hosted by the president in his honor.

PRC Education Delegation Visits Refugee Camp

BK131540 *Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu* 1500 GMT
13 Nov 83

[Text] A five-member Chinese educational delegation visited an Afghan refugee camp in Nasirbagh near Peshawar this evening. The leader of the delegation, Vice Education Minister Madam Peng Peiyun, told the refugees that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan violated that country's sovereignty and has resulted in millions of Afghans becoming homeless. She said China

supports the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

Students Arrested at MRD Rally in Khairpur

GF121039 *Karachi DAWN in English* 8 Nov 83 p 6

[Text] Sukkur, Nov 6 — MRD workers and supporters including students today took out a procession at Khairpur in support of the MRD movement.

The procession was taken out in response to a call by the MRD to observe Protest Day today.

According to reports, the processionists set on fire a lorry of Khairpur fire-brigade, blocked the moving buses and other vehicles on national highway and pelted stones at them.

They also demonstrated in front of the district council hall where elections of the chairman and vice-chairman of district council, Khairpur, were being held.

The processionists raised slogans at the place of election but heavy police force on duty there dispersed them. Later the processionists forcibly tried to close the shops. Subsequently there was complete hartal [strike] in Khairpur town.

All shops, including pan-bidi, stalls and vehicular traffic was at a standstill. Nineteen students have been arrested for attempting to disturb the normal life of the town at Khairpur and forcing the shopkeepers to close down their shops.

Police Arrest Two 'Terrorists' in Lahore

GF121148 *Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu* 8 Nov 83 p 1

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Lahore, 6 November — Wahdat colony police arrested Javed Akhtar and Talat Jafri in a dramatic manner from a private house in the Pak block. It was said that they belonged to a terrorist group.

The police recovered a Soviet-made machinegun with 100 cartridges from Javed Akhtar and a foreign-brand revolver and a 100 bullets from Talat Jafri. The police were on their trail for quite some time, and they had been publicized as criminals.

Cantonment police yesterday were informed that both wanted men were at house No 256/8. A large police contingent raided the house and arrested the two men. The police officials presented them at a local court, obtained their remand, and interrogated them on the other absconding members of the group. It is being speculated that Javed Akhtar and Talat Jafri belong to a group whose ringleader is Aftab Gul. Another member of this group had been arrested earlier by the provincial crimes branch police; a sten gun and cartridges were seized from him. The other terrorists, who are all connected with the missile case, absconded.

NAWA-E WAQT Pleads for Elections on Party Basis*GF121159 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 8 Nov 83 p 3*

[Editorial: "Elections on Party Basis and Shoorah"]

[Excerpts] The chairman of the Majlis-i-Shoorah, Khwaja Mohammad Safdar, said that the Majlis will not review its recommendation on party elections. President Zia had addressed the eighth session of the Majlis-i-Shoorah and had asked the members to reconsider their demand for elections on a party basis. Khwaja Safdar said that although the president's speech is on record, the Majlis has its own *modus operandi*.

In his speech at the Majlis-i-Shoorah, President Zia admitted that all the leaders of the defunct parties he had spoken to had demanded elections on a party basis and that there are some merits to the party system of elections, but he said it would be not advisable to hold the next elections on a party basis.

If the local bodies polls are to be any example to us, we are all aware that the votes were being openly "sold" and the "purchasing" party is winning. This detestable practice is hard to curb; it has been prevalent since 1958. Instead of tackling this halfheartedly, the nation should be guided on healthy, positive lines so that the country's politics may have a firm foundation, which can only be done if elections are held on a party system.

Once the elections are held on a nonparty basis, the next 5 years will be a period of anarchy, free from all kinds of restrictions and in the chaos that will be unleashed, it will not be possible to formulate any positive or unanimous plan for national constructive activities. Unscrupulous affluent individuals will open up their coffers; there will be haggling and bargaining, and clannishness and "isms" will be the order of the day. Votes will be sold to the highest bidder and national interests will be gambled away. In short, whatever has happened in the local bodies elections will happen on a larger scale in the national and provincial elections.

Keeping these facts in mind, we respectfully entreat the president to reconsider his opinion, as all the political parties of the country are demanding elections on a party basis, and cater to the increasing public demand.

People's Party Opposes Talks With Government*GF111154 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Nov 83 p 7*

[Text] Peshawar, Nov 3: The defunct Pakistan People's Party [PPP], NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province], has asked all political leaders in the country particularly the MRD, not to waste time in holding talks with the government.

At a meeting held under his chairmanship, the acting president of the party calling the negotiations a pretext, stressed that the offer of talks should not be entertained, — viz, lifting of martial law, release of all political leaders and workers, lawyers, students, factory workers and peasants, restoration of the 1973 constitution and holding of elections by March 1984 under the provisions of the election rules which were in force prior to July 5, 1977 — were accepted by the present government. The meeting further

stressed that all political parties should be enabled to contest elections without discrimination.

Making the demands public at a press conference on Tuesday, Khan Bahadar Khan said that the defunct PPP had also reiterated its demand for the release of Miss Benazir Bhutto and other political leaders as their detention for the last three years was intolerable.

The meeting also asked for measures for freedom of the press and release of arrested journalists.

It condemned use of force against lawyers and paid tribute to those who took active part in the struggle for restoration of democracy, assuring that the defunct PPP would never leave them alone in the struggle.

The party reaffirmed its resolve to carry on the present struggle to its logical end and called upon the political workers to provide momentum to the peaceful struggle.

Meanwhile, two workers of the defunct National Democratic Party courted arrest in Bazaar Qissakhwani on Wednesday in connection with MRD movement. They raised slogans against martial law.

NAWA-E WAQT Calls for National Unity*GF131342 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 7 Nov 83 p 3*

[Editorial: "Internal National Unity — Basis of Effective Foreign Policy"]

[Excerpts] "We will neither tolerate foreign intervention in our affairs nor will we encroach on others territory" — these words were spoken by Sahabzada Yuqub Khan while discussing the country's foreign policy at the Majlis-i-Shoorah. In his speech, he dwelt upon the years of effort in improving relations with neighboring India, Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and the adverse effect it has had on Pakistan's peace endeavors, the Iran-Iraq war, and so on.

After the foreign minister's speech, other members spoke on various aspects of the country's foreign policy, but some of the members stressed the need to take steps to promote internal national unity and reiterated that this would be the only guarantee against foreign intervention and a basis for an effective foreign policy.

The arms purchased during the rule of the Zia government or, in other words, which are being bought by the Zia government, first and foremost belong to Pakistan and will be used for the defense of the country whenever the need arises. The arms purchased in the Ayub Khan and Bhutto periods were used for the country and were not taken along by the presidents. Exerting pressure on the Zia government for restoration of democracy and early elections and other efforts to the effect are a different matter, but to criticize the government's policies on the basis of these differences or merely for the sake of opposition to the government on the matter of arms purchase is reminiscent of the audacious statements of the Indian rulers.

The Indian Government is purchasing 10-15 times more arms than Pakistan and the critics of the present government do not take the trouble to contemplate the reasons for this.

This discussion was necessary because ignorance of the repercussions of a stagnation in our politics and the influence of external opinions and their effects has created some uncertainty in our minds. On the one hand, we insist on being extremely democratic and, on the other hand, we become oblivious of the very essence of democracy and consider ourselves the paragon of democracy. We cannot even express our opinions without being suspicious and critical of others. This sort of extremism in expression is not a very desirable attitude. To deracinate this attitude and its possible repercussions, a moderate and rational approach is needed along with acceptance of the fact that a government is transient but the country remains. This would be a positive point on which to focus public unity and the need for internal national unity.

Pakistan's enemies desire that Pakistanis should keep fighting among themselves and should call for help across the frontiers

Iran Grants Moratorium on Loan Repayment

GF121042 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Lahore, Nov 7 — Pakistan has been granted five years moratorium by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the repayment of its outstanding debts amounting to 580 million dollars.

The moratorium was granted after a debate on the issue by the Iranian Majlis (parliament) in August.

The loans were issued during the (late) ex-shah's rule. — PPI

Montazeri Comments on Security, Elections

LD141422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
14 Nov 83

[Excerpts] — According to the report of the Central News Unit from Qom, the Friday imams, governors general, and governors of Esfahan and Bakhtiari va Chahar Mahall Provinces last night met with the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom. In this meeting, the proceedings of which have just been announced, a report was presented by the governor general of Esfahan about the close cooperation and understanding between the Friday imams of Esfahan Province and the executive officers of Esfahan Governorate.

Ayatollah Taheri, representative of the imam and Friday imam of Esfahan, while confirming the remarks of the governor general of Esfahan, also referred to certain issues concerning economic shortages in that province, the sensitive nature of the region, a climate of discord existing between some of the government departments and many Friday imams of the province.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, praising the unity of expression and the understanding existing between the Friday imams and the executive officials in the governorate generals and governorates in the two provinces, expressed his hope that this understanding and cooperation would be strengthened in all parts of the country. He said: One of the issues which concerns us, the esteemed Friday imams, and the rest of the officials of the Islamic Revolution is that we should not allow the exceptional conditions which have been imposed upon us by the counterrevolutionaries to separate us from the people. Of course, one should not ignore the issue of security or its importance. However, the brothers should be careful not to go to excess in this regard; they should refrain from issues which are not necessary.

Referring to the existing method of repulsing and isolating able and committed individuals in a number of organizations and in the bazaar, he emphasized: Today, I feel that a large number of faithful and capable individuals are being gradually isolated and expelled from the scene in a number of organizations and in the bazaar, either through ignorance or through the mischievous attitude of some mysterious individuals. In my opinion, if the present trend continues it will deliver a blow to the revolution and will corrode it from within. I have often heard that in education departments, in the Guards Corps, or in the bazaar some people are being expelled after being tested on a number of futile and unnecessary questions, thus preventing them from serving the country, although today we are faced with a manpower shortage and should as far as possible attract capable individuals rather than expelling them, let alone the faithful people who have a long record in the Islamic Revolution. However, unfortunately, one notices that there is a trend or a policy in the bazaar and in some organizations, such as education departments and the Guards Corps and some others, to isolate such individuals and thus create a number of discontented people every day either through ignorance and ineptitude or, God forbid, through malice and treason. Whatever it is, this trend should be decisively stopped because it is against the interests of Islam, the revolution, and the Islamic Republic. In any case, one should make it possible that people's affairs are administered by the people themselves. One should make greater use of experienced people who are faithful to the

Islamic Revolution and one should not allow those who engage in flattery to succeed and to dominate.

In another part of his speech, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the need to strengthen the government and other national figures: Of course, supporting and strengthening the government, the president, the prime minister, and other officials is everyone's duty, but this does not mean that one should not criticize. No one should prevent constructive criticism and useful remarks. If Friday imams or others cordially point out weaknesses to officials or write about it, this should not be stopped under the pretext that it would weaken the government or certain officials; or, God forbid, as in some places, instead of investigating major offenses, certain individuals have created difficulties for those who have criticized and have tried to make dossiers on them. If the defects and shortcomings of society are not pointed out in a reasonable and properly documented way and if responsible officials do not correct themselves, then the country and the revolution will not last.

In connection with future elections to the Majlis, he said: As the imam — may his shadow continue — recently remarked and as I also mentioned in the seminar of the Friday imams of provincial capitals, while the Friday imams should take part in the issue of the elections at the same time as they are the representatives of his great excellency the imam they should maintain their broad vision and their social status and should not put themselves at the disposal of one particular channel or group. If in a city they see that a number of committed and capable individuals have announced their candidacies, they should support all of them and not say that such and such a person should be supported or opposed because he belongs to the party or doesn't. The criteria for support or selection should not be membership or non-membership in the party. The criteria should be the capability of individuals and their commitment to the revolution and the interests of the country.

Musavi Addresses Police Academy Graduates

LD141529 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
14 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi attended the tenth graduation ceremony of the Police Academy of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning at the police university. The Prime Minister presented certificates and prizes to graduates who achieved placings in the top three categories. The ceremony also was attended by Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Colonel Samimi, chief of police; Movahhedi-Kermani, representative of the imam in the police department and head of the Ideological-Political Bureau of the Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

After military parades and ceremonies, Mir-Hoseyn Musavi made a speech comparing the role of the police and the security and military forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the role and duties of the police in the Eastern and Western arrogant systems. He said: The police force of the Islamic Republic is the most dignified police force in the world. The prime minister added: To discover the orientation of various systems it is neces-

sary to know what their Armed Forces are defending. Today, the American police are defending the crimes and interests of big capitalists and are protecting the domination of a small number over all the deprived nations of the world. They protect military aggression against smaller countries; they protect vile interests and protect an order under which a number of people plunder the wealth of all the nations of the world and use it unhindered, in peace and security. This is why the American police are safeguarding American crimes throughout the world. It is under this security that America engages in aggression in the Persian Gulf, Grenada, Lebanon, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Without having a security force which is in keeping with American values, that criminal regime could not last even for 1 day. As a result, the American police support antihuman crimes and actions and are against all human values. They protect a dark and evil order in today's world.

Emphasizing the fact that the military forces in the dependent countries are not much better than the security forces of the arrogant powers [as heard], the prime minister added: "What other interests does America have in the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman and the Indian Ocean except to safeguard the interests of filthy capitalists? Is it not the case that American imperialism, side by side with the Zionist forces, has engaged in the slaughter of the deprived, hard-pressed, and oppressed Lebanese nation so that it can continue to safeguard its base in the Middle East to impose its domination over the deprived nations, and to protect its abject slaves in the region?"

Referring to the role of the security forces of the reactionary countries of the region, including Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq, which are safeguarding the superpowers' interests and which are trying to impose the imported values of arrogant powers, the prime minister praised the significance and role of the security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: "Today our security forces are safeguarding values which derive from days such as 8 September [Martyrs Day]. Today our security forces are safeguarding a nation that wants to live independently and without masters and to rule over its destiny; a nation that wants to remove the hands of the East and the West from the region and to defend the oppressed and the deprived."

Prime Minister Discusses War, Economy

GF141754 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 14 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14 IRNA — In an interview with the Persian daily *ETTELA'AT*, published in its Monday issue, Prime Minister Musavi has said that the recent thrust by the Muslim forces of Iran have extremely debilitated the Iraqi forces and plunged them even further into their eventual defeat.

He said also that the ruling government in Iraq is already like a cripple trying to keep himself on his foot with the aid of crutches provided him by the big powers. Musavi has also said in the interview that the fate of mercenary groups (political rebel groups) in Iran is intricately interrelated with the fate of the on-going war and that they are vividly inspired by foreign powers in their vain struggles against the Islamic Government. Excerpts.

Q. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has declared this year as the year of dedication to the well being of the impoverished masses. What has the government so far done towards coping with social and economical bottlenecks such as the high cost of living, the problem of land ownership and unemployment?

A. In the past (during the monarchy) the majority of industries in Iran which had come to existence upon petro-dollars — were primarily multi-national companies in the hand of influential entrepreneurs and financiers attached to the shah's regime. Today those industries are in the hands of the government, and as such they belong to the masses... Today the revenues from such institutions are expended for the well being of the people. By saying that public revenues are utilised for the people we mean that our planning and budgeting and our appropriation policies have been designed with a view to ensuring that the revenues from such institutions are expended for the people. The government is essentially inclined to expand such revenues mainly in deprived areas and to ensure that they are distributed fairly and in the interest of the impoverished masses.... In the long run such revenues will help our economy to thrive.

Naturally, however, we should not overlook the fact that the on-going war has laid a heavy burden of costs upon the government and that our country's economy is as a whole affected by the war. But this war is itself is, as it were, a sort of investment for our nation as well as for all deprived nations of the world. The war is destined to determine the fate of not only our people who now vehemently reject the notion of their government being lorded over by another (external) master, but also of a large part of deprived masses in their struggle against the supercilious and bulldozing powers of the world....

I am confident that in the course of the next five years, we will be able to start production in five of our major industries which will have an annual capacity of up to nine million tons of output. One of them is the petro-chemical complex with a projected output of 3,000,000 tons. A second one is the Ahvaz steel complex with a projected yearly output of 2,500,000 tons, a third one is the Esfahan steel foundry with a projected yearly output of 1,300,000 tons of steel and which is scheduled to start operations perhaps next month....

Q. Ayatollah Montazeri urged you, in one of your recent meetings with him, to adopt and enforce policies in order to motivate farmers and farm workers to remain on the farm and in rural areas. What has your government done for the fulfillment of this purpose?

A. We have formed a high council on agriculture and rural affairs...for improving the conditions in our rural areas. Our budget appropriations to rural areas this year show a marked increase as compared with the previous years.... In the current budget 100 billion rials (dls 1.17 bn.) have been appropriated to the Jihad-e Sazandegi (Reconstruction Corps). The people in the Jihad had requisitioned 130 billion rials, but so far only 100 billion rials have been approved....

Because our new policies limit or minimize the volume of investment in our big cities, we are confident that in the near future

life will not be so appealing in the big cities, whereas in contrast it will be qualitatively and even materially far better in the rural areas. Naturally, we have to cope with bottlenecks, among them the various government subsidies currently undertaken by the government. Another problem is relevant to the ownership of lands. Currently we have about one million hectares of lands with still undecided legal status. During the past two years or so they were utilised for agricultural purposes under the supervision of agriculture council... in this area the high council on agriculture and rural affairs is busy formulating new regulations. An effort is being taken in order to ensure its ratification at the Majlis and its subsequent endorsement by the Guardian's Council.... We are confident that by solving this problem we shall have solved many of the problems facing our rural people....

(On the operations of the Iranian forces in the Val Fajr-4 offensive):

Reflections by the world media on Iran's successful thrust upon the enemy troops in the Val Fajr-4 offensive and the hue and cry they consequently raised in connection with the situation in the Hormuz Strait can well portray the significance of this thrust against the enemy forces. The presence in the battlefronts of Saddam's presidential guards also speaks for the dimension and forcefulness of the thrust of the Muslim combatants of Iran.

A government (Baghdad) which is keeping itself in power by intimidating the masses and exploiting repressive measures has dispatched its last and its most loyal human resources to the battlefronts in order to offset an expectable crushing defeat.

Insofar as we know the internal situation in Iraq has deteriorated in the wake of the Val Fajr-4 operations of the Iranian troops. Their set-back has created confusion among the rank and file of the armed forces in Iraq. Based on clues and witnesses the ruling regime in Iraq can hardly ever recover from the blows it has suffered from the Muslim combatants of Iran. It has been solely the continuous aids and the support of the big powers to Baghdad which has kept it on its feet like crutches handed out to a cripple. In their forthcoming operations, no doubt, the Muslim combatants of Iran will be capable of inflicting their finishing blows upon the Baghdad government....

The end of the war now going in our battlefronts will also be the end of the life of (outlawed and armed political) rebel groups inside the country. The two issues are closely interrelated.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,542

LD141807 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
14 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,542 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, the battle between our victorious warriors and the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressive mercenaries continued along all fronts of the imposed war from Piranshah to Abadan and Khorramshahr in the form of an artillery fire exchange. The fire exchange was more intense in

the Sumar region, on the western front, and in the Faqih and Zeydi sectors on the southern front.

The combatants of Islam on every front, consolidating their own defensive positions, opened artillery and other heavy weapons fire on positions, fortifications, and supply axes of the enemy at appropriate times, silencing their fire and inflicting losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces. By dispatching patrol groups, our forces monitored and controlled movements and patrol operations of the Saddamist mercenaries and, at appropriate times, our forces neutralized their movements and patrol operations.

Iraqi losses and casualties on various battlefronts are:

On the Piranshah and (?Haji 'Umran) front: Destruction of two fuel tankers, one jeep, several slit trenches, and foxholes with the troops deployed in them, and over 80 percent of an Iraqi base.

On the western fronts: Destruction of part of the defensive positions of the Iraqi forces. Over 27 Iraqi troops were killed on these fronts.

On the Mehran and Dehloran fronts: Destruction of two trucks. Over 30 Iraqi troops were killed on these fronts.

The brave warriors of the Gendarmerie, on the Abadan front, while silencing enemy fire, succeeded in setting ablaze and destroying one engineering vehicle and two weapon emplacements of the Saddamist mercenaries.

Our patrol forces and observers discovered patrol elements of the Iraqi forces in the Nahr Khayyim and Pich Angizeh during the past 48 hours. Thanks to the fire of our forces, the enemy patrol groups suffered losses and were forced to flee.

The city of Abadan was under fire from the Saddamist mercenaries yesterday. Four shops and houses were damaged.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

TEHRAN TIMES Examines Super Etendard Issue

GF111300 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 19 Oct P 1

[Text] Our political commentator today takes up the question of the recent flurry of activity in the region and the big powers who have sent their armadas at full steam towards the Persian Gulf in the face of the Islamic Republic's strongly asserted intentions to meet any move aimed at jeopardizing its interests through encouragement of the Iraqi regime. The analysis aims to show that Iran will not stand idly by if ever danger is foreseen to these interests and will act in the way it thinks fittest.

A great deal of high tension and nervous alarm have recently been generated in capitals throughout the world following Iran's warning that the delivery of the Super Etendard fighter jets equipped with Exocet missiles to the Iraqi regime of the Ba'thist Saddam Husayn, would entail the gravest of consequences if these jets are used to stop Iranian oil flow out of the Persian Gulf. No doubt all the hue and cry which the Iranian threat engendered

in world political circles and reflected in the world's manipulated media, had much to do with attempts made right along from the start of the Iran-Iraq war to hold aloft the Ba'athist regime as a counter to the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Mark you these attempts have been made jointly, openly and off and on clandestinely by those not too kindly disposed to the Islamic Revolution which they see as a danger to their interests in this part of the world. But what impresses us most in all this is the fact that these concerned world and regional powers are at long last willing to take Iran seriously. How seriously could be seen from the focus of world attention on Iran's challenge to the recent gift to Iraq of the French military package.

No one we believe can seriously deny that the clear warning of the leader of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini and high officials of the nation, to the effect that the Hormuz Strait will definitely be targeted for closure by Iran if its vital interests were in any way jeopardized by the encouragement given to Saddam Husayn, did create a stir of dynamic proportions among world and regional states. Not only that, the two superpowers and a number of other "interested" parties in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere are busy scurrying to and fro in search of what they deem are defensive counter-measures.

Let them do what they must, but they should remember that Imam Khomeini and the Islamic Republic's officials, who take their cue in all decisions from the Imam, mean what they say and will follow up with practical steps to make effective what they say. The media may have been tutored to represent the Iranian statements on the closure of the Hormuz Strait as so much filibuster, but all those involved would do well to note that Iran has taken vital decisions before in the face of the gravest dangers to itself when convinced of the justice of its cause and can and will do so again.

One of such experiences had been the captivity of the U.S. spy nest in Tehran and humiliating of the 52 American spies for 444 days continuously. Imam Khomeini had declared since the beginning that "America cannot do any damn thing" and so it had been. Of course, the U.S. and its mercenaries motivated by material computations imposed an economic boycott and froze Iranian assets. But what had been the result? The blocked Iranian assets only led to a later settlement of financial accounts between the Iranian and American governments and no longer will any Iranian funds find its way into the manipulated American banks.

Are the Saudi, Kuwaiti and other corrupt regimes, which hold substantial funds in the American banks, able to withdraw their money? Never. They can only rob the wealth of their oppressed nations and boost the standing of the American treasury, being blackmailed into purchasing American goods in return.

Will they be in a position to withdraw their staggering funds in U.S. banks without being immediately confronted by the might of Zionists and U.S. capitalists interests who will want to freeze these funds?

The economic boycott also served as inspiration for Iranian Moslems in controlling economic excesses. The foolhardy aristocratic group was distinguished and separated from the genuine

followers of the Islamic Revolution, and those who are willing to sacrifice for Islam and those who are not ready to do so were made known in order to make their position clear at a suitable time.

Another experience is the imposed war. The Western and Eastern politicians calculated that if they force the strong Iraq of those days, with a \$16 billion currency reserve and a strongest group force in the region, to declare war against Islamic Iran, they could achieve a two-fold objective: loss of soldiers of the two countries to weaken the army of Islam and to overthrow the Islamic Government of Iran, which had already been entangled with a series of conspiracies.

Imam Khomeini had said on the very outset: "We shall so slap Saddam that never should he be able to get up again." Today, not only has this threat been vividly materialized but it has led to weakening of any government which helped the aggressor. Understandably, a lot of blood of Moslems has been shed but, contrary to the fanciful imaginings of the atheists, all that bloodshed only strengthened the will to resist and fight on the path of justice. If Iran was able before to gather its defenses quietly, it can now stage such a maneuver that with one simple threat about closing down the Hormuz Strait, it can make all the loudspeakers of the enemies of Islam sound off at the top of their voices.

Why? Since they know that Iran has not bluffed so far, Iran had said even during the first stages of the war, even though relatively weak in comparison with the aggressor, that it shall not allow repetition of the Palestine case within Iran and that Iran will not accept a cease-fire unless the invader is punished. These positions later emerged as the final truth.

They clearly experienced that from the beginning Iran had raised the slogan of "neither East nor West" and such had been the truth. Iran kicked the Russian remnants out of the country just as it shoved out the American spies.

Coming on the present times Islamic Iran has not only successfully crushed out the now helpless aggressor and shaken the hollow, reactionary rulers of the region out of their senses, but its method of fighting has gained universal dimension in a way that the revolutionary Nicaraguan nation, placed right in the heart of America, finds its inspiration in the strength of Moslems in Iran. And the Lebanese in the Middle East, living under acute oppressive circumstances combined with all the limitations stand in combat against the Zionist, capitalists and socialists dictations, and have set the sacrifices of the Iranian fighters as their ideal.

But what is really regarded as the great triumph of Islamic Revolution has been the humiliation of all internationally famous press networks of the world whose interpretations and analysis of the incidences in Iran after the revolution has so far, emerged as incorrect and unreal! And such a situation is attributed to no other factor but the blessings of Islam and we thank God for His bounties.

Iran-Bound Goods Delayed at Turkish Ports

GF111100 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 3-9 Nov 83 p 7

[Text] Iranian officials are reportedly blaming Turkey for huge delays in the transit of goods bound for Iran through Turkish ports on the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Goods that make up a stranded stockpile of more than 400,000 tonnes can take up to 70 days before they are loaded onto lorries across the border.

Last month the *GULF MIRROR* told of how many people in the Gulf shipping trade saw the backlog of Iranian cargo in Turkey as a crucial reason why Tehran would not carry out its threat to close the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Arabian Gulf.

Iran has threatened to block the Strait if its opponent in the 38th-month-old Gulf war, Iraq, uses French-built Exocet missiles against its oil installations.

Many in the Gulf shipping trade say that such a blockade would cut off a cargo lifeline for Iran leaving it to depend on overland supply routes from Turkey and the Soviet Union.

With the present huge delays at ports in Turkey a blockade seems unlikely.

Last April Turkey signed an agreement with Turkey [as published] to transport 3.5 million tonnes of goods from its ports to Iran this year. So far less than a third of this figure had been carried because of a lack of lorries to take the load.

The shortage of vehicles stems from a government ruling in September which prevents Turkish vehicles of less than 200 tonnes capacity from carrying goods abroad. A large number of trucks were also converted into road tankers to carry fuel oil from Iraq to Turkish ports on the Mediterranean.

Demand for these tankers is high as Turkey is Iraq's only outlet for its oil exports since a pipeline through Syria was shut down last year because of the fighting.

A pipeline through Turkey from Iraq carries 700,000 barrels per day but this represents only a fraction of Iraq's oil export before the war.

Lorries were also diverted away from international to domestic routes to cater for the pre-winter demand for coal.

Some sources blame Turkish shipping companies for the harbour backlogs, saying they struck deals with Western countries to carry goods through Turkey to Iran when lorry fees were seasonally low.

With the coal rush and the need to carry produce a bumper harvest from farms to markets fees had shot up and availability has dropped. [as published]

NVOI Compares Afghan, Iranian Revolutions

TA141132 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Our nation's Popular, Anti-Imperialist Revolution Will Continue Until Final Victory"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The democratic and anti-imperialist revolution of the Afghan people and our nation's popular and anti-imperialist revolution both occurred in the same year — in 1357 — and with similar goals and demands.

In the course of the Afghan people's democratic and anti-imperialist revolution, namely, in the second month of 1357, the vast majority of the Afghan people, including workers and farmers, supported the revolution and their revolutionary government. In the course of our homeland's working people's popular and anti-imperialist revolution, namely, during the 11th month of that same year, the decisive majority of working people, especially workers and farmers, also supported their popular and anti-imperialist revolution. However, now that over 5 and 1/2 years have passed since the Afghan people's revolution and almost 5 years since the revolution of our homeland's working people, we are witnessing two completely varying and even contradictory scenes in Afghanistan and Iran with respect to the revolution's progress and the people's support for the existing authority.

If in Afghanistan, in the course of the revolution and during the initial months following the revolution's victory, landlords, feudalists, khans, tribal leaders, and dependent capitalists succeeded with the aid of reactionary clergymen and agents of U.S. and British imperialism in deceiving a considerably large group of working people, particularly farmers and tribal members, and in inciting them against their government and nation, currently within the country the vast majority of farmers support and defend their democratic government and revolution. Those toiling and deceived Afghans who reside in Pakistan and Iran and who on the order of imperialism and by means of Pakistan's rulers and leaders of the Islamic Government of Iran are dispatched to Afghanistan to commit crimes and murders, after entering the homeland's territory, voluntarily surrender in groups to Afghanistan's Armed Forces and join the defenders of the homeland, the revolution, and their democratic government.

However, in our homeland, Iran, the scene is completely different. In the course of the revolution and for a period following the revolution's victory, British and U.S. imperialism, reactionary clergymen, and their other domestic agents, could not even deceive a small section of working people, including workers and farmers, and draw them into the ranks of the counterrevolution. Today, however, the majority of the people, including workers and farmers, hate Iran's Islamic regime.

What is the reason for this? Why have these two revolutions, which from many aspects — both from the aspect of the forces participating in the revolution and the goals and demands of the

revolutionaries — were similar and identical, traversed a contradictory and opposite course? So much so that today one cannot find the slightest common resemblance between what is occurring in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The only cause of this is the sincerity and loyalty of the Afghan Democratic Government to the revolution and its goals, and in contrast, the reneging and betrayal by the Islamic Government's leaders of the revolution's goals and demands of the million-strong working people, who brought the revolution to victory by offering scores of thousands of dead and disabled.

The Democratic Afghan Government fulfilled all its promises to the Afghan people and toilers. Leaders of the Islamic Government of Iran reneged on all their promises to the working people of our homeland. By distributing free of charge lands belonging to the royal family, as well as those of treacherous and fugitive khans and feudalists, and also excess land of large landowners, among farmers with no land or small landholdings, the Democratic Afghan Government gave free land and water to more than 400,000 peasant families. In contrast, the Islamic Government of Iran deemed the land reform law, which is the blood money of scores of thousands of dead and disabled farmers, as being in contravention to Islamic and shari'a standards. It brought back feudalists and khans to the villages, returned the confiscated land to them, and renewed their domination over the peasants' lives, property, and honor.

The Democratic Afghan Government delivered workers from the unchallenged exploitation of major capitalists and provided for them as well as for members of their families honorable working and living conditions. But the Islamic Government of Iran, worse

than during the shah's regime, made workers the prisoners of the mailed fists of major factory owners, and enabled industrial capitalists to exploit workers to the maximum.

In practice, the Democratic Afghan Government has provided free medical and educational facilities and services to Afghan working people and their children and is endeavoring with all its might to extend these services and facilities to the whole country, even to the most remote villages. The Islamic Government of Iran does not allow many of the working people's children even to study in schools under the pretext that their parents are Tudeh, Feda'i, and Mojahed. Even in Tehran itself Iranian working people are deprived of the most elementary medical services because even middle income families are not able to pay the enormous sums required for medicine and treatment.

In the DRA all the people enjoy social freedoms and no one is molested in the least because of his religious or nonreligious beliefs, whereas officials of the Islamic Government have turned our homeland into the prison, torture chamber, and slaughterhouse of dissenters and adherents of other religions and faiths, and even of struggling Muslims.

These are some of the reasons for the progress and expansion of the democratic and anti-imperialist Afghan revolution and, ultimately, the reason for the daily increasing support of Afghan working people for their democratic government, and these are the indisputable bitter realities of our homeland, which have led Iranian working people to hate and despise the Islamic Government. However, despite all the treacheries by the Islamic Government's leaders toward the people and revolution, the Iranian nation's popular and anti-imperialist revolution is continuing and will continue until complete victory.